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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
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Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

Colombia: draft resolution

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly:

Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons: a call to action

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity, the physical integrity of persons, human rights and development, and which requires the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes measures to prevent it, to prosecute and punish traffickers and to protect the victims, as well as a criminal justice response commensurate with the serious nature of the offence,

Recalling that trafficking in persons impairs the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international assessment and response and genuine multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for its eradication,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons, investigate and punish the perpetrators and protect and assist the victims thereof, and that not doing so impairs victims' enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Welcoming the ratification of or accession to, by 173 States, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized

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Crime,[1] which provides an effective global legal framework to promote international cooperation against trafficking in persons,

Recalling its adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [2] and targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which reaffirm the commitment of Member States to taking immediate and effective measures to, inter alia, eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and trafficking in persons,

Recognizing the need to continue to foster a global partnership against trafficking in persons and the need to continue to work towards an enhanced, comprehensive and coordinated approach to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms,

Recognizing also the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on good practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Recalling its decision, in its resolution 68/192 of 18 December 2013, to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed every year beginning in 2014, and welcoming events held by Member States, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and civil society at the international, regional and national levels to mark the World Day in order to raise awareness of trafficking in persons and the situation of the victims of this crime and for the promotion and protection of their rights,

Recalling also its adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation, and recalling further its adoption by consensus of resolutions 68/192 of 18 December 2013, 70/179 of 17 December 2015 and 72/195 of 19 December 2017 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons,

Stressing the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action by all Member States and international organizations, and encouraging the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, in line with their existing mandates, to continue to implement the Global Plan of Action, including by elaborating, in cooperation with Member States, a list of concrete measures, as stipulated in Assembly resolution 68/192,

Welcoming the holding of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held during its seventy-second session, on 27 and 28 September 2017, to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and welcoming also the adoption at that time of the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[3] which was testimony to the strong political will to take decisive and concerted action to end this heinous crime, wherever it may occur, and in which Member States welcomed pledges made to the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, established in 2010 in accordance with the Global Plan of Action,

Recognizing the vulnerability of migrants, especially irregular migrants, to becoming victims of trafficking in persons in the context of international migration, and the need to prevent violations of the human rights of migrant persons and protect

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[2] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[3] General Assembly resolution 72/1.

them given their vulnerability to trafficking in persons associated with the increase in migrant flows,

Recalling the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by consensus on 19 September 2016,[4] in which Member States noted the importance of coordinating efforts related to assisting and protecting the migrant population that is subject to smuggling and which, on account of its vulnerability, includes potential victims of trafficking in persons,

Welcoming the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to be held in Morocco on 10 and 11 December 2018, whose objective is to set out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions, including preventing and combating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration,

Drawing attention to the need to address the new challenges generated by the rapid development of the Internet and other information and communications technologies that are being used to facilitate trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of exploiting women and children, and to recruit and control victims,

Taking note of the Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons of the Organization of American States, held in Washington, D.C., on 12 and 13 March 2018, and the Mexico City Declaration adopted at the Fifth Meeting, and welcoming the decision of the Organization of American States to extend the term of the Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere from 2015–2018 to 2015–2020,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[5] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[5] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them effectively;

2. *Invites* the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons established by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to consider developing recommendations for measures, within its mandate, that further the goals of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;[5]

3. *Invites* all Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to continue to actively observe the annual World Day against Trafficking in Persons;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016*,[6] prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime pursuant to the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, looks forward to the next such report, to be produced by the Office in 2018, and requests the Office to continue, in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States, to collect, in a balanced, reliable and comprehensive manner, information on patterns, forms and flows of trafficking in persons at the national, regional and international levels for use in those reports and to share best practices and lessons learned from various initiatives and mechanisms;

5. *Encourages* partnerships and networks between the public and private sectors that bring together national authorities, businesses, media, academia, civil society organizations and other social actors to foster cooperation in the design and

[4] General Assembly resolution 71/1.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.IV.6.

implementation of policies and programmes to prevent and eliminate trafficking in persons and protect victims and their dependents, as appropriate, by facilitating the sharing of information, experiences and lessons learned;

6. *Encourages* Member States to continue to promote ongoing, comprehensive training, among other measures, for officials and staff in the immigration, health, foreign affairs, consular, security, labour inspection and social services sectors, among others, on the different characteristics of trafficking in persons in all its forms, in order to enhance their skills in preventing, detecting, investigating, prosecuting and securing convictions for trafficking in persons and in providing comprehensive, timely and adequate care for victims of trafficking in persons, including emotionally traumatized victims, taking into consideration the specifics of each population group and the particular vulnerabilities of each, in accordance with the domestic and international laws in force;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to strengthen the capacities of national authorities and personnel responsible for the investigation, prosecution and punishment of crimes of trafficking in persons in Member States, and strengthen national, regional and international coordination and cooperation among law enforcement agencies to prevent and investigate the crime of trafficking in persons, arrest, prosecute and convict those responsible for the crime and their accomplices and address the need to assist and protect victims during the investigation and prosecution of this crime;

8. *Further encourages* Member States to develop programmes that include input from the private sector, civil society and other social actors, including survivors of the crime of trafficking in persons, with a view to helping victims of this crime to become reintegrated into society and find employment and educational opportunities;

9. *Encourages* Member States to increase efforts, in accordance with domestic laws, to produce standardized, common indicators, as well as variables, and increase the availability and quality of comparable statistical data that can be shared locally, regionally and worldwide, as such information is needed to document trends and characteristics of trafficking in persons, support good practices, determine technical assistance needs and contribute to policy formulation, including the adoption of measures to deal with the demand that encourages trafficking in persons;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within the framework of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, to continue to increase the activities of the Group related to the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and, to this end, to incorporate aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] relevant to preventing and combating trafficking in persons and consider how to coordinate future activities and avoid duplication of efforts;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to cooperate with relevant international organizations outside the United Nations system and to invite such organizations and interested Member States to participate, when appropriate, in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and keep Member States informed of the schedule of and the progress made by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group;

12. *Invites* Member States to address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, humanitarian emergencies, including armed conflicts and natural disasters, sexual violence, gender discrimination and social exclusion and marginalization, as well as a culture of tolerance towards violence against women, youth and children;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as fund manager of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in

persons, especially women and children, to continue to encourage States and all other relevant stakeholders to make contributions to the trust fund;

14. *Invites* Member States to strengthen or continue to strengthen coordination and cooperation among States in combating crimes that might be connected with trafficking in persons, including money-laundering, corruption, smuggling of migrants, drug trafficking, cybercrime and others forms of organized crime;

15. *Also invites* Member States, consistent with their national legal frameworks, to cooperate closely with Internet service providers, mobile telephone companies and other key actors to establish appropriate and efficient mechanisms for cooperating with law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of the offenders responsible for such crimes;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to promote criminal proceedings for trafficking in persons in conjunction with investigations for the crime of money-laundering, the application of confiscation measures, including actions to confiscate property, in order to weaken and eliminate the economic core of organized criminal groups;

17. *Encourages* the continuation of bilateral, regional, subregional and multilateral groups or networks of national authorities to combat trafficking in persons and the adoption of protocols of inter-institutional cooperation to fight and eradicate this crime and to assist and protect the victims;

18. *Stresses* the need to develop policies and strategies to encourage victims to report trafficking in persons, including specific programmes to promote the rights of victims, protect their privacy and identity and ensure their safety before, during and after criminal proceedings and protect the immediate family members of victims and witnesses, as appropriate, from retaliation by traffickers by ensuring their safety, and also stresses the importance of proactive investigations and of developing better investigation techniques in order not to depend solely on the testimony of victims;